

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 08 August 2005 (08.08.05);
original claims 1-28 replaced by amended claims 1-14; remaining claims unchanged]

1. A memory card connector (34), comprising:
 - an insulative housing (36) having a terminal-mounting section (36a) which mounts a plurality of conductive terminals (44) having contact portions (44a) for engaging appropriate contacts on a memory card (60) and which at least in part defines a card-receiving cavity (40) for receiving the memory card;
 - a card eject mechanism (46) including a slider (50) movably mounted on the housing and engageable with the memory card for movement therewith into and out of the cavity between an inserted connection position and a withdrawal position, and an ejection spring (56) to bias the slider and memory card in an ejection direction toward said withdrawal position;
 - a catch means (70) for catching the memory card in its movement in said ejection direction and preventing the memory card from moving under inertia beyond said withdrawal position; and
 - a metal shell (38) mounted on the housing (36) and combining therewith to define said cavity (40) having a front insertion opening (42) to permit insertion and withdrawal of the memory card (60) into and out of the connector, said catch means being integral with the metal shell.
2. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said catch means (70) is located near the front insertion opening (42) of the cavity (40).
3. The memory card connector of claim 2 wherein said shell (38) is stamped and formed from sheet metal material and the catch means (70) is stamped and formed therefrom.
4. The memory card connector of claim 3 wherein said catch means comprise a catch member (70) integral with the metal shell (38) engageable with a recess (60d) in the memory card (60).
5. The memory card connector of claim 4 wherein catch member comprises a cantilevered leaf spring (70).
6. The memory card connector of claim 3 wherein said metal shell (38) includes

a top wall (38a) and at least one side wall (38b), and the catch means (70) is stamped and formed from the top wall of the shell.

7. The memory card connector of claim 6 wherein said catch means comprises a cantilevered spring (70).

8. A memory card connector (34), comprising:

an insulative housing (36) having a terminal-mounting section (36a) and at least one side wall section (36b) extending forwardly from one end of the rear section which mounts a plurality of terminals (44) having contact portions (44a) for engaging appropriate contacts on a memory card (60);

a metal shell (38) mounted on the housing and combining therewith to define a card-receiving cavity (40) having a front insertion opening (42) to permit insertion and withdrawal of the memory card into and out of the connector between an inserted connection position and a withdrawal position;

a card eject mechanism (46) including a slider (50) movably mounted on the side wall section of the housing and engageable with the memory card for movement therewith, and an ejection spring (56) to bias the slider and memory card in an ejection direction toward said withdrawal position; and

a catch means (70) integral with the metal shell (38) for catching the memory card in its movement in said ejection direction and preventing the memory card from moving under inertia beyond said withdrawal position.

9. The memory card connector of claim 8 wherein said catch means (70) is located near the front insertion opening (42) of the cavity (40).

10. The memory card connector of claim 9 wherein said shell (38) is stamped and formed from sheet metal material and the catch means (70) is stamped and formed therefrom.

11. The memory card connector of claim 10 wherein said catch means comprise a catch member (70) integral with the metal shell (38) engageable with a recess (60d) in the memory card (60).

12. The memory card connector of claim 11 wherein catch member comprises a cantilevered leaf spring (70).

13. The memory card connector of claim 10 wherein said metal shell (38) includes a top wall (38a) and at least one side wall (38b), and the catch means (70) is stamped and formed from the top wall of the shell.

14. The memory card connector of claim 13 wherein said catch means comprises a cantilevered spring (70).